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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scam Alert: Goddard Warns Of "Travelers" Offering Asphalt Paving Services

(Phoenix, Ariz. – April 13, 2004) Attorney General Terry Goddard is warning Arizona ns to look out for fraudulent construction or paving companies offering residential asphalt paving services.

The scam works like this: A representative from a company known as "Travelers," stops at a house and offers to spread "surplus asphalt" on a homeowner's driveway or a small portion of the property for a discounted price.

The consumer is given a verbal quote, but never a written estimate for the job. The company spreads asphalt and in some cases without the homeowner's consent will pave an additional portion of the property.

After the asphalt is down the foreman or the Travelers owner gives the homeowner a final bill that is thousands of dollars more than what was originally quoted. They demand immediate payment and in some cases refuse to leave, making the consumers feel pressured into paying in full.

Arizona consumers should report this activity to the Attorney's Office by visiting the website at www.ag.state.az.us and remember these tips:

- Hire a contractor that is licensed by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors.
- Get written estimates from several contractors.
- Request a list of references and check them before agreeing to hire a contractor.
- Make sure the scope of the project, the price and any other material terms are in a written contract.
- Never allow yourself to be hurried into making a decision. No reputable contractor will try to pressure you into hiring them.

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